

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 16, 2010

Major Bus Route Restructuring Debuts Here on December 20

by Thomas X. White

The process for restructuring the Metro and TheBus routes serving Greenbelt will culminate on December 20 with implementation on that day of bus route changes affecting all routes currently serving the city. All Greenbelt residents who rely either on Metro buses or the county-run TheBus should be prepared for changes to their normal routes and, in some cases, to situations where their usual bus stop will no longer exist after Sunday, December 19. Sometimes a more or less convenient new bus stop will have appeared.

The restructuring process began over a year and a half ago when many underperforming routes in Greenbelt came under scrutiny during the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 budget planning cycles and when, in May 2009, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) moved potential restructuring of TheBus service for Greenbelt to the forefront of the county's Transit Ser-

vice and Operations Plan (TSOP).

According to DPW&T's background document on the proposed changes, the two providers of bus service for Greenbelt determined that a collaborative restructuring of the Greenbelt routes provided a way to preserve the existing amounts of area transit service and forestall broader elimination of Greenbelt service.

The county TSOP and WMATA studies summarized what most Greenbelt transit riders already knew in terms of service reliability, efficiency and route duplication. Indeed, the county and WMATA ride and load check analyses showed that the Greenbelt routes had some of the lowest ridership numbers in the region. Thus, the restructuring effort was designed to maximize public, agency and City of Greenbelt participation to achieve twin goals of preserving the "level" of service for Greenbelt while improving ridership and service efficiency.

Year-long Effort

The year-long collaborative effort involved participation of the

DPW&T transit planning staff, City of Greenbelt Planning staff, WMATA bus planners, members of the Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G), other transit riders and elected officials.

The interactions included several meetings with city planning staff, two presentations to the city's Advisory Planning Board, several appearances at city council meetings, public hearings and numerous email and phone conversations with TRU-G representatives and other residents.

Despite these outreach efforts, the final decision has not been warmly embraced. (See GNR issues of July 22, August 5 and October 28, 2010.)

In council's letter of November 8 to DPW&T, Mayor Judith Davis submitted comments to the record of the DPW&T public

See **BUS CHANGES**, page 12

Bus Schedule For the Holidays

Due to continued budget stresses, Metrobus will operate using its Sunday schedules on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. In Greenbelt, only two routes run on Sundays: the B30 express bus to BWI Marshall Airport and Metrobus 81, which travels from Greenbelt Station along Cherrywood Lane, then turns right on Greenbelt Road and heads for College Park and points south.

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day, all other parts of the city will have no bus service. But on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the Prince George's County TheBus routes will run on their normal weekday schedules. With most Metrobuses not in operation, these will be good days for local riders to try out the newly-changed TheBus routes.

The Greenbelt Connection, operated by the City of Greenbelt, will be closed on all four of these days as they are city holidays. But it will operate on Sundays throughout the period, providing much of Greenbelt its only public bus service on those Sundays. The Greenbelt Connection provides rides within the city upon request. Call 301-474-4100 at least 24 hours in advance to request a ride.

— John Stith

Co-op Membership Hears Of Challenges during 2010

by Virginia Beauchamp

Plenty of parking spaces were available when Co-op members entered the Community Center on Saturday, December 4 for the Greenbelt food store's annual meeting. When they came out, however, two and a half hours later, not an empty space was in sight.

What was going on?

Two events at the Greenbelt library – its official opening celebration following several months of renovation of the 42-year-old building and in the library rooms downstairs the reopening of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

At the same time another grand opening had also occurred – of the two-day, city-sponsored Festival of Lights Art and Craft Fair in the Community Center gym.

This year's membership meeting of the Co-op, taking place usually in October or November,

had been postponed this year for completion, or near-completion, of an on-going renovation within the store. That very fact, however, involved complications and elaborations of the meeting agenda adding to its usually more abbreviated time-frame.

Treasurer's Report

Joe Timer, treasurer of the cooperative since its organization some 26 years ago (and to which he was re-elected before the meeting's close), noted that in this highly competitive market, the Co-op mirrored the economy as a whole. But there was new competition: Target stores have now added a grocery component, he said, and Wegman's has recently moved into the county.

A major loss to the Co-op resulted from last year's snow storms and the area-wide electrical

See **CO-OP**, page 5

What Goes On

Monday, December 20

7:15 p.m., Tour of Greenbelt Library

8 p.m., Council Worksession with Greenbelt Middle School Task Force, Municipal Building

Wednesday, December 22

8 p.m., Council Worksession on Greenbelt West Sector Plan Update by M-NCPPC, Community Center

Thursday, December 23 – GHI Closed

Friday, December 24 – City and GHI Closed for Holiday

American Education Week November 14 to 20, 2010

In celebration of American education, these columns tell the stories of selected teachers from schools that serve the Greenbelt community.

This week readers will get a glimpse inside Springhill Lake Elementary School. It follows last week's feature on Greenbelt Middle School teachers Antoinette Glenn and Ramon Braza and profiles in prior weeks on teachers at Turning Point Academy, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Magnolia and Greenbelt Elementary Schools.

This is the final installment in the 2010 American Education Week salute to local teachers.

The month-long Education Week project has been coordinated by David Lange.

Language Arts Teacher Pours on the Positivity

by Cindy Henneberger

"I just had an awful first year of teaching," said Springhill Lake language arts teacher Shana Sterkin. "I was crying every day."

Her students had behavior problems and their environment didn't help. "The kids are really aware of their community, because they'll tell us stories about waking up with sirens or hearing the police bang on their neighbor's door or seeing weapons or drugs. I mean, they know a lot more than I did when I was eight- or nine-years old."

Now an award-winning 3rd through 5th grade teacher, she told me how she had turned



Shana Sterkin

things around. "When you pour on the positivity, they can't not be positive back to you," Sterkin explained. "They just, they can't sit there and have a grumpy day the entire day when they have somebody constantly being cheerful and praising them."

As a former education major myself, I'd seen young teachers armed with positivity massacred by grade schoolers who had been suckled in much less violent neighborhoods than the one Sterkin described.

And there sat Miss Sterkin

See **STERKIN**, page 6

A P.E. Instructor Coaches Students to Choose Health

by Cindy Henneberger

While other kids dreamed of being firemen, doctors and super stars, switching choices in rapid succession, Stephanie Kohout only wanted one job.

When her three siblings became engineers, she did not follow. Despite Sherwood High School's recognizing her as technology student of the year, she stuck with her first pick. "I've always wanted to be a teacher," said Kohout.

She is a physical education instructor at Springhill Lake Elementary School in Greenbelt, where she teaches preschoolers through 5th graders about exercise, sports, nutrition – and a bit of technology on the sly.

During a parachute lesson at the beginning of the year, Kohout snuck in a fundamental math and physics principle. Explaining that



Stephanie Kohout

she was shaking it at a high frequency, Kohout asked students, "Look at the parachute. How are the wavelengths on it? Is it short? Is it long? Is it tall?" Beaming, she told me that frequency was a science concept from middle school. Yet her second graders had picked it up.

When I visited Kohout, her kindergarten class was playing a game she called "Clean Your Room." With that title I was surprised that they wanted to participate. But they willingly took part.

Kohout told me she also used the game to teach the concepts of greater than, less than and equal to.

A Team Game

"Clean Your Room" required "dust balls," that looked like colorful versions of Star Trek's tribbles.

See **KOHOUT**, page 9

Editorial

Our Carriers Bring Holiday Greetings

Around this time of year those who deliver the News Review traditionally leave holiday greetings envelopes at the homes they serve. The News Review does not pay our carriers much, so your generous holiday donations and expressions of appreciation help make their jobs worthwhile.

Most carriers range in age from pre-teen to the middle teens. For the younger boys and girls, delivering the News Review is their first job experience. Many older carriers started at a young age and continue to deliver the News Review mainly as a service to their neighborhood. It is a learning process for all these youngsters and, in some cases, the instillation of responsibility takes time and patience.

The holiday season affords all of us a chance to show appreciation and to provide encouragement for the efforts of these youngsters and at the same time to show understanding for any failings that may have occurred during the year.

Again this year, the carriers will leave envelopes. We hope these envelopes, identified with the carrier's name and address, will be helpful to you as you show appreciation. If your carrier's name or address is in doubt, mail your envelope to the News Review, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 for forwarding. Please include your address so we can identify your carrier.



Condolences to the family and friends of lifelong Greenbelter David A. Hensel, 48, who died December 8, 2010. A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church in Beltsville on Monday, December 13. David was the son of former longtime Greenbelter Irene Hensel, now residing in Silver Spring.

Congratulations to:

- Father Walter Tappe, pastor of St. Hugh of Grenoble Church, who celebrated 25 years as a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington. He was honored at two receptions on Sunday, December 12. Father Tappe served 10 of his 25 years at St. Hugh's, from 1996 to 2000 as a pastoral associate and since 2004 as pastor.

- Janet Hagelgans, daughter of Ruth Kastner and Chuck Hagelgans, who just graduated from the Parks Law Enforcement Academy at Skagit Valley College in Mt. Vernon, Wash. Janet served as one of two team leaders for her graduating class and received awards for Best Female Physical Fitness and Best Female Defensive Tactics. Her goal is to serve as a Park Ranger at one of the National Parks. Shown are Janet, her husband Tony Li and grandmother Bernice Kastner at the graduation reception.

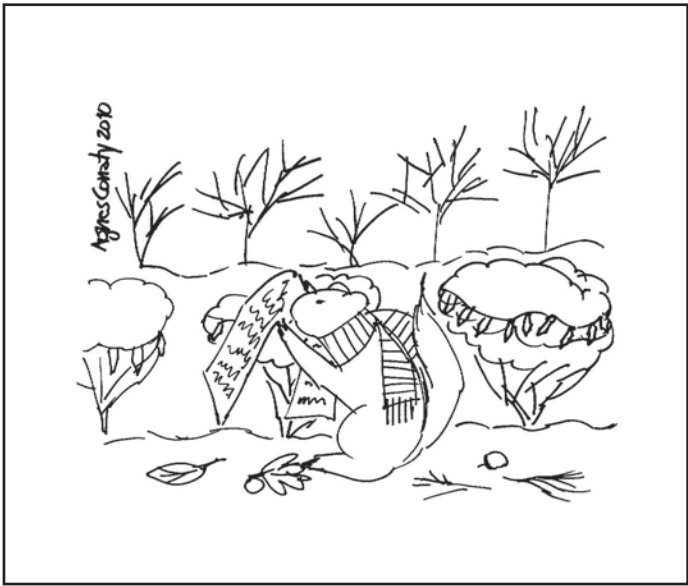


Best wishes to News Review staffer Elizabeth Jay for a speedy recovery from her tumble at Metro.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We'd especially like to hear more from our neighbors in Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West. To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

Grin Belt



"Dear Santa, may I ask for a snow day, please?"

On Screen

Dance, Ballerina, Dance

Opening at Old Greenbelt Theatre on Friday, December 17 is the much-ballyhooed "Black Swan." A New York City ballet company's artistic director (Vincent Cassel) chooses Nina (Natalie Portman) to star in a production of "Swan Lake" – but then newcomer Lily (Mila Kunis) angles to replace her. Nina, living with her mother, an obsessive former dancer, gets caught up in an emotional maelstrom. Director Darren Aronofsky stokes the entwined demands on the beautiful ingenue to the max. Critics have alternately extolled and carped at this early candidate for an Oscar. Rated R. Run time: 108 minutes.

– Eli Flam

Letters

A Reminder to All

I want to thank my neighbor, Kate, for reminding me to prepare my application for the Maryland Homestead Tax Credit before year end, saving me a lot of taxes. I called 1-866-650-8783 to get information to apply. I gave my address to the person to send me the access code to apply online and then was given the identification code for the application.

By applying online I will get confirmation that it was received. The person told me it would take weeks to process applications sent in by mail.

I will remind more GHI neighbors about this to be sure they are not paying more taxes than are due. If they don't apply by the end of December they will not be eligible for the Homestead Tax on their current mortgage.

Mary Ernsberger

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for December 20 to 24:

Monday – Grape juice, baked ziti with meat sauce, mixed squash, tossed salad, almond cookies.

Tuesday – Creamy celery soup, baked pork chops with gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet peas, stewed apples.

Wednesday – Cranberry juice, baked tilapia with lemon butter sauce, home-fried potatoes, mixed vegetables, peach supreme.

Thursday – Orange juice, turkey bean chili, rice, tossed salad, fresh banana.

Friday – Christmas Eve, all sites closed.



Notice to GHI Members

Mark your calendars!
GHI Town Hall Meeting
Sunday, January 23rd, 2pm, Community Center gym
to discuss the Energy Upgrade Pilot Program.

More details at www.ghi.coop - click on the "Pilot Program" tab, or contact "Eldon Ralph at 301-474-4161, extension 128."



Seasons Greetings

Join us for our Family Christmas Program
on Sunday, December 19th at 6pm. The
program will feature songs of the Christmas
season, a children's story, and refreshments.

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Altoria Bell Ross, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Mary Willis Clarke

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE
WEEK OF DEC 17
Black Swan

(R)

Friday

*5:15, 7:30, 9:40

Saturday

*3, *5:15, 7:30, 9:40

Sunday

*3, *5:15, 7:30

Monday – Thursday

*5:15, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.50

Tuesday is Bargain Day.
All Seats Only \$6.50.

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MasterCard for ticket sales only.
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129 Centerway
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Community Events

Reel & Meal Holiday Film on Consumerism

The next film in the Reel and Meal at the New Deal series will be “What Would Jesus Buy?” to be shown on Monday, December 20 at 7 p.m. All are invited to the free screening at the Café, with food available for purchase beforehand. The series is sponsored by local grassroots organizations to raise awareness of social justice and environmental concerns.

The film features Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir. Speakers after the show will be local pastors Dan Hamlin from Greenbelt Community Church and Reverend Fay Lundin of Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church.

Produced by Morgan Spurlock (Super Size Me) and directed by Rob VanAlkemade, the film follows the Reverend Billy and his guerrilla theater troupe on a four-week, cross-country crusade tour aboard two antique bio-diesel-fitted buses with a message to “save Christmas from the Shopocalypse: the end of mankind from consumerism, over-consumption and the fires of eternal debt!”

Alternating between traditional performance spaces (theaters, clubs, and churches) where they are enthusiastically greeted and non-traditional protest spaces (Mall of America, Wal-Mart Arkansas headquarters and Disneyland Main Street) where they are met by bemused consumers, hostile employees and unsympathetic cops, Reverend Billy preaches against over-consumption, credit card debt, sweat shops and the commercialization of Christmas.

The message is to consume less and buy more responsibly – buying local, American, non-corporate, green, cruelty-free and Fair Trade Certified, whenever possible. Reduce, re-use and recycle. Footage is inter-cut with sobering statistics about American debt levels and consumer dissatisfaction, news reports about consumption and interviews with consumers and academics.

Donations from the audience will be sought for equipment and games needed for children at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. For more information about the program email Cam MacQueen at worldisvegan@aol.com.

Holiday Events At Beltway Plaza

On Saturday, December 18 Christmas Carolers will sing at Beltway Plaza Mall between 1 and 2 p.m. at Center Court and from 2 to 3 p.m. at the West Court.

On Sunday, December 19 there will be an all-day Ronald McDonald Show at McDonald’s, including a magic show and other kids’ activities.

GHI Notes

Thursday, December 16, 7:30 p.m., Board Meeting – Board Room

Monday, December 20, 7 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby

Tuesday, December 21, 8:30 a.m., Ad-Hoc Yard Line Committee Meeting – GHI Library

Wednesday, December 22, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee Meeting – Board Room

Thursday, December 23, Offices Closed

Friday December 24, Offices Closed (Note: Members needing emergency service during closings can call maintenance at 301-474-6011.)

The fall leaf bag program ends December 29 – a limited supply of bags is still available in the lobby.

Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald
The Golden Age Club has completed another active year. There were many fun trips and a successful yard sale/bake sale and birthday luncheons plus a lovely anniversary luncheon in April. Generous donations were made to the summer Kamp Kids and UNICEF for help to Haiti and other community activities.

For 2011 the club elected the same board of officers, who volunteered to serve another year. They will be sworn in on January 5.

Our condolences to Irene Hensel in the loss of her son David. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the family.

There will be no meeting on December 22. On December 29 we will play Bingo.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday.

Kids to Perform At New Deal Sunday

A Kids Open Microphone session at the New Deal Café this Sunday, December 19 runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. On the third Sunday of every month, children up to age 17 are invited to play a musical instrument, sing, dance, recite a poem or otherwise perform.

For more information call Anne Gardner at 301-220-1721 or email annegrndnr@yahoo.com.

More Community Events
see pages 2, 4 and 8



Flanked by city councilmembers, Recycle Right winners accept their awards and prizes at the Greenbelt City Council meeting on November 22. From left to right: Sharon and Barry Miller, Julia and Mary Wade, Dan Tobocman and son Jasper, Vladimir Tchompalov, Luisa Robles (presenter). Winner Liz Pels Nash was not present.

– photo by Beverly Palau

Recycling Awards Presented

America Recycles Day was November 15 and among other means of celebration, the City of Greenbelt’s Public Works Department held its annual Recycle Right contest. Five households were selected as winners from those judged by staff to follow recycling rules well.

This year winners received a blue recycling bin designating them as recipients of the Recycle Right Award. Inside the bin were a reusable bag and a \$20 gift certificate from MOM’s (My Organic Market); a cooler bag, reusable water bottle and 15 percent off coupon from REI; a T-shirt made of recycled cotton from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; and a poster from Public Works depicting items acceptable for

recycling in Greenbelt. REI also provided a 15 percent off coupon for everyone present at the council meeting when the winners were announced.

This year’s winners are: Sharon and Barry Miller of Greenhill Road, Mary and Julia Wade of Lastner Lane, Dan Tobocman and Debora DeRuyver of the Wednesday route on Ridge Road, Liz Pels Nash of the Thursday Route on Ridge Road and Vladimir Tchompalov of Vanity Fair Drive. With the exception of the Nash home, winning households were represented at the regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council on November 22 when Luisa Robles, recycling coordinator for the city, presented the awards (see picture above).

– Barbara Hopkins

Community Band Holiday Concert

The Greenbelt Concert Band, with G. Thomas Cherrix as director of bands, will present a free Holiday Lights concert on Sunday, December 19 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center Gymnasium. All are welcome.

Café Cajun Jam On Wednesday

On Wednesday, December 22 there will be a free Cajun Jam at the New Deal Café from 7 to 9:30 p.m. for dancers, musicians and listeners. Beginners are welcome.

For details call 301-434-5642 or email swopes123@aol.com.

Saturday, Dec 18 - 8 pm

the Chromatics

present

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Greenbelt Arts Center

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Tickets:

\$15 adults

\$12 seniors/students

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Greenbelt Arts Center

Music double-header this weekend!

The Homespun Ceilidh Band

Friday, December 17 at 8:00 pm

THE CHROMATICS –

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 8:00 PM

\$15 General/\$12 Students/Seniors

Upcoming:

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Call 301.441.8770 for more information

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Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall

Center Court

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ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m.

Adults/Seniors: \$6.50

Children: \$6.00

ALL SHOWS BEFORE NOON

ON SATURDAY \$5.00

ALL SHOWS AFTER 5 p.m.

Adults: \$8.50

Students/Military: \$7.50

Children: \$6.00

Seniors: \$6.50

R = ID Required

(!) = No pass, (!!) No pass weekend

Week of DEC 17

FRI.-SAT.

Megamind, PG

11:10, 1:25, 3:45, 6

Unstoppable, PG-13

8:15, 10:30

The Fighter, R (!)

11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:25

TRON – 3D, PG (!) “No fees”

11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:25

Yogi Bear, PG (!)

11:10, 11:45, 1:15, 2, 3:20, 4, 5:25, 6:10, 7:30, 8:15, 9:45, 10:20

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treaders, PG

11:30, 2:15, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15

The Tourist, PG-13 (!)

11:25, 2:20, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15

Tangled – 3D, PG “No fees”

11:45, 2:25, 5:15, 8, 10:20

SUN.

Megamind, PG

11:50, 2:10

Unstoppable, PG-13

4:50, 7:15

The Fighter, R (!)

11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35

TRON – 3D, PG (!) “No fees”

11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35

Yogi Bear, PG (!)

11:10, 11:45, 1:15, 2, 3:20, 4, 5:25, 6:10, 7:30, 8:15

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treaders, PG

11:30, 2:15, 5:10, 7:40

The Tourist, PG-13 (!)

11:25, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30

Tangled – 3D, PG “No fees”

11:40, 2, 4:40, 7

MON. – TUE.

Megamind, PG

12:20, 2:40

Unstoppable, PG-13

5:20, 7:45

The Fighter, R (!)

12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15

TRON – 3D, PG (!) “No fees”

12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15

Yogi Bear, PG (!)

12:20, 12:45, 2:30, 3, 4:35, 5:20, 7, 8

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treaders, PG

12:10, 2:35, 5:15, 7:45

The Tourist, PG-13 (!)

12:15, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50

Tangled – 3D, PG “No fees”

12:10, 2:30, 5:20, 7:45

Obituaries

Shirley L. Dwyer

Shirley Lorraine Dwyer died on November 20, 2010.

Mrs. Dwyer was born in Washington, D.C., on December 16, 1933, and attended public schools there, graduating in 1952. She and her husband Tom moved into Greenbelt in 1953 and continued to live here, first on Laurel Hill and then at 10 Crescent Road.



Mrs. Dwyer retired from the Maryland Department of Agriculture in 1994 after 30 years of state service. After retiring she spent the next 10 years volunteering, which she loved.

She volunteered at Prince George's Hospital Center and was recording secretary for the Hospital Guild for six years and also worked at the Patient Information Desk. She was a volunteer for the first Cuddler program at the hospital. She volunteered at Greenbelt Elementary School for four years as a reading tutor.

Mrs. Dwyer belonged to the St. Hugh's Ladies of Charity and was the recording secretary for six years. She was also a member of the V.A. Nurses Organization where she worked in the Fight the Flu Program and a clerk at Greenbelt council elections for a number of years. She was also a member of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club. She loved working with others and helping when she could.

She loved to read, especially suspense novels, do crossword puzzles, crochet and email her Oregon family. Mrs. Dwyer loved being with her grandchildren as they were growing up and felt blessed to be part of their lives.

Mrs. Dwyer is survived by her husband Tommy; daughter Diane (Brian) Terrett of Portland, Ore.; son Tom and Robyn (who was like a third daughter to her) Dwyer; Patricia (Mickey) Johnson; and Christopher Dwyer. Grandchildren include Kellen and Christian Terrett who grew up in Colorado; Kelly (Chris) Dwyer, who she always introduced as her favorite granddaughter; Matthew (Amy) Dwyer; and Shawn Dwyer. She is also survived by four great-grandsons – Reece, Aiden, Carson and Connor; her sister Mary Anne Overton and nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church on November 23.

In Memoriam

Jean Ewald Whitney

Jean Ewald Whitney was born July 4, 1925, and died December 22, 2009.

She was an adopted child

who grew up in Bristol, Va. She went to high school and then started nursing school there but after meeting Stern Whitney she opted for marriage instead of school.

She had three children – Nancy, Gwendolyn (deceased) and a son, Ted. The family lived in Missouri for several years; then, at winding down his career, her husband moved them to Greenbelt where they lived at 56 Ridge Road. By this time all the children were married.

After Stern died in the 1980s Mrs. Whitney continued to do volunteer work at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Center. She loved wildlife watching and loved anything that had to do with the ocean, the parks and sailing.

She very much missed her children, who were living in other states. She became friends with neighbors and others, some of whom helped her from time to time.

Mrs. Whitney began to suffer health problems and went to live at Independence Court in Hyattsville in 2005. Her daughter Nancy moved her to Hamden, Conn., where she lived at Arden Court, an Alzheimer's care facility.

Mrs. Whitney died last December and will be missed by those who knew and loved her.

— Melinda Green

A “Blue” Christmas Service on Sunday

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church (40 Ridge Road in Greenbelt) will hold a “Blue Christmas” Service on Sunday, December 19 at 6 p.m.

In spite of all the advertisements of people celebrating the holidays with the traditional scenes of joy and happiness, not everyone feels cheery for Christmas. Some are feeling the emptiness left by the death of a loved one. Those living with cancer or other disease struggle to find joy. Those unable to have children find this holiday especially difficult. Some in the community are facing the loss of jobs, savings or even their homes. Others find it hard to live up to the holiday hype.

On this Sunday Mowatt Memorial invites the community to a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing hurting places with God and preparing hearts for the coming of the Light of the World.

— Rev. Fay Lundin,
Mowatt Memorial Church

Berwyn Presbyterian Christmas Eve Service

On Friday, December 24 all are invited to a special candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. at Berwyn Presbyterian Church. Included will be lessons and carols, with musical selections by the choir and accompaniments by organ, flute, harp and guitar. Colleen Daly-Eberhardt will be guest soloist.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 19, 10 a.m.

All Ages Winter Solstice Service Rev. Diane Teichert with Abby Crowley, worship associate, the Chalice Dancers and All Ages Holiday Choir Mitten Tree (Bring warm items) – Holiday Dinner to follow.



Now meeting at Greenbelt Elementary School, 66 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

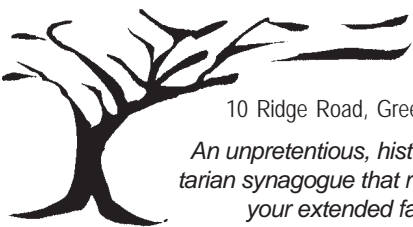
Please come this Sunday
WORSHIP AT 11:00

Pastor Nigel C. Black, MDiv. (410) 627-8381



“The light of a good character surpasseth the light of the sun and the radiance thereof.
The glory and upliftment of the world must needs depend upon it.”

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us



Congregation Mishkan Torah

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K–12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.

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Sunday School: 9:30 am
Worship : 11:00 am
Child Care Available :
Office Hours : M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Christmas Concert: Saturday Dec 18 7:30 pm
Christmas Eve Service: Friday Dec 24 7:30 pm

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ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
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Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Worship Service 10:00am

Blue Christmas service, Sunday, Dec. 19, 6 pm

Life may have caused you to feel out of sorts, depressed or just not joyful this season. Come join us in a service that recognizes that emotion..

Family Christmas Service, Dec. 24, 5 pm

A child-friendly service. Keep Jesus as the reason for the celebration.

St. George's Episcopal Church

Join us around a table where all are welcome!

Services

• Sundays

8 a.m. simple, quiet service (no music)

10 a.m. main service

(music includes a mixture of acoustic guitar, piano and organ music)

• Wednesdays

7 p.m. service with healing prayers (no music)

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Greenbelt Community Church

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Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

www.greenbeltucc.org

Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m.

Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

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101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Welcome!

Sunday 9:45 am

Sunday School

Sunday 11:00 am

Worship Service

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!

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Worship 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Dec. 24

12:15 p.m. Communion 10 p.m. Candlelight Service & Communion

Christmas Day Dec. 25

9:30 a.m. Communion

December 26

One service at 9:30 a.m. with Communion

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Catholic
Community
of Greenbelt
MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

In Memoriam
Steve Hooper

Steve Hooper was a Greenbelt boy, as the obituary in last week's edition so aptly noted. He lived here from the age of four. He was two years younger than I and attended Greenbelt Community Church. I spoke with Steve many times, usually at church, but I didn't really know Steve. Steve was a man of few words; more inclined to be reading a book than to be holding counsel with those around him.

Steve served in the Air Force working with flight simulators. There was a story related at the memorial service about Steve taking his turn on "fire duty," i.e. watching the barracks for fires. It was the habit for everyone to shout out "Pizza-Pop!" whenever the food service truck would come by. One evening when Steve was engrossed in one of his books, someone came by and asked him "What say there airman?" Without looking up, Steve said somewhat quietly "Pizza-Pop!" Oops! It was an officer and Steve was supposed to stand and salute when he entered. He later got a job with Ken Voigt at the University of Maryland working with audio-visual equipment. He also worked as a cashier at the Greenbelt Co-op Service Station

Steve was a Boy Scout growing up and Tom Wertz related to me that he always looked sharp in his uniform and studied and followed all the regulations for dress. Tom said Steve had his moments and liked his fun in his younger days. He was pals with Tom, Ken, Mark Hanyok, Tony Fominaya and Joe Truban and they hung around often in one of the garages on Parkway. They were all at the memorial service. Tom had a go-cart and he and Steve (or whoever else was available) would camp out and ride the cart through the streets (and sidewalks) of the town at all hours of the night. As they graduated to driving cars, they liked to drive through the Beltsville Farms in the snow in Tom's four-wheel drive jeep.

Sadly, Steve became a caretaker for his mother when she grew sick and died in 1982 and again for his father and his brother Stanley, who also pre-deceased him. I found this role significant, in keeping with the sense of responsibility he learned from Scouts and perhaps from church and certainly from his mother. He married his helpmate Linda in the year 2000, five years after they met. Linda noted that when Steve became sick himself, they took care of each other. His last years were difficult for him both in health and in his economic condition.

I remember Steve sitting at the sound booth at Labor Day, helping Ken Voigt produce the sound for the Festival stage. I also remember his good manners and his willingness to help when he was well. He had a good sense of humor, which I think carried him through when things got tough. Greenbelt's kids include those who live quieter lives but serve a role with family and friends for sure.

— Rick Ransom



CO-OP continued from page 1

breakdown from the heavy July wind storm that forced closure of the store for several days. Some \$60,000 in refrigerated items had to be discarded, Timer said, but insurance had covered \$50,000 of that loss.

The operating loss for the year was \$83,948, a dramatic increase since the year before. Nevertheless, sales between this fiscal year and the last had dropped only \$1,862, Timer said. Unfortunately, for this reason, he added, no bonuses could be offered to staff this year nor patronage refunds to members.

On the plus side, Timer said, pharmacy sales had risen 4.01 percent and beer and wine selections by 3.02 percent. Also on the plus side, the Co-op receives rent from Bank of America for the money-mover within the store and from the Greenbelt Arts Center on the lower level.

Timer was followed by store manager Bob Davis. The store itself this year, for the first time ever, he said, had operated at a loss. Nevertheless it was close to "being in the black," he said.

Remodeling

But during this same year remodeling of the store had been going on. Ancient, inefficient freezers had been replaced and, in Timer's words, "a stealth renovation." About \$400,000 had been spent on the renovation so far, Davis said, and he promised it would be completed in a few more weeks.

He listed new display cases, a new paint job and new logo, a new floor and new ceiling. The customer service office was also being renovated, he added, and a family restroom is being installed on the main level. Another change had been an enlarged greeting card section with new, finer quality cards.

He also noted a Blockbuster Video Rental Machine as "a nice addition," as well as a coin counting machine. He also praised a successful wine and beer tasting program that had been introduced by produce manager Ellen Siegel and Kim Rush-Lynch, education member outreach officer of the cooperative.

Another piece of business for members at the meeting was the introduction and acceptance of a bylaw change regarding notices of annual meetings. Previously these have been mailed out to some 8,000 persons at a cost of from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Such mailings will now no longer be used. Instead large posters within the store will announce the meetings, as well as mass

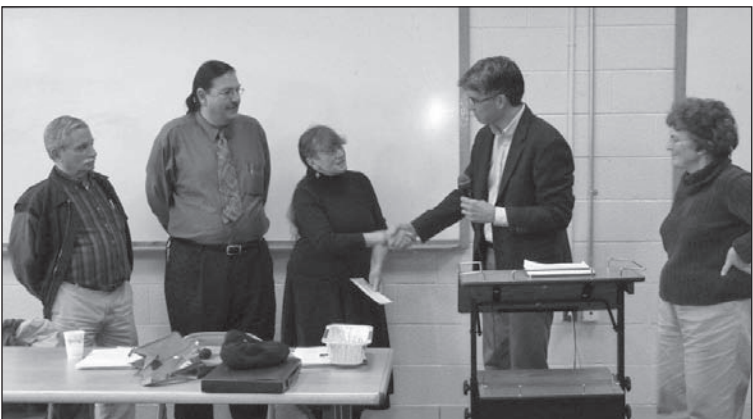


PHOTO BY JOE TIMER

The Co-op's Jim Cassel's Award, a \$1,000 grant given for community building projects, was presented to Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts and Greenbelt Access Television. The organizations are planning a children's animation project to celebrate Greenbelt's 75th anniversary. From left to right Robert Zugby (GATE), George Kochell and Barbara Simon (GAVA), Fred Cassel (son of Jim Cassel) and Co-op Board Member Donna Hoffmeister.

WSSC Manager Gets Innovator Award

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Energy Manager Robert B. Taylor was named Region II Renewable Energy Innovator of the Year by the Association of Energy Engineers on December 7 at the group's 33rd World Energy Engineering Congress in Washington, D.C. He was chosen for his efforts in the WSSC direct purchase of clean renewable energy in the U.S. local government category in WSSC's wind energy initiative.

emailings to members and inserts in the weekly News Review ads.

Cassel's Award

The meeting concluded with the awarding of the Jim Cassel's grant, an annual \$1,000 award honoring the late Co-op founder and dedicated member. This year the award went to the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts and Greenbelt Access Television, which are planning a project together for Greenbelt's 75th anniversary.



City Information

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. Vacancies exist on: Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Forest Preserve Advisory Board
For information call 301-474-8000.



**FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONCERT**
featuring the
**GREENBELT CONCERT
BAND**

Sunday, December 19th at 3pm
Greenbelt Community Center Gym
Enjoy a selection of holiday classics!

**CITY OFFICE CLOSED ON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th for the
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**
Refuse and Recycling will be on regular schedule the week of December 20-24th except that there will be no special trash or yard waste collection on Friday, December 24th. The Greenbelt Connection will not run on that day.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!

Download the Winter 2011 Greenbelt Recreation Activity Guide at
www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation_brochure.pdf



For City News, Information, and events, visit Greenbelt CityLink at www.greenbeltmd.gov
Find us at www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 20-24

Monday, December 20th at 8pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Greenbelt Middle School Task Force**, at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Wednesday, December 22nd at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Greenbelt West Sector Plan Update by M-NCPPC**, at Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000 or contact the City Clerk at cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER
550-A Crescent Road (behind Police Station)
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2 LITTLE KITTENS THAT WERE ADOPTED. THERE IS ONE KITTEN LEFT – TAKE HIM HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! COME OUT AND VISIT:



Bella, a well trained boxer mix, 11 mos old. Teddy, a young retriever mix. Lowie, young female around 1 1/2 years old. Mr. Wilson, a senior male pomeranian. Adorable senior kitties: Seymour and Gypsy and all their friends.
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Make a donation for the holidays in the name of a friend!

STERKIN continued from page 1

with a voice calm as water flowing over rocks, donning ruffly chiffon, curls falling evenly around her porcelain face. I half-expected fairies to break out in song. So I asked her, given her gentleness, whether the students sometimes ran over her.

She assured me they didn't. She explained that she talked to them about rules at the beginning of the school year – and they knew consequences followed on breaking them. One big consequence was that they could not participate in a lesson. "And I'm hoping that the lessons and learning experiences I create are so great that that's really a consequence," Sterkin said.

Students turning their backs on mischief because it got in the way of their being able to do class work . . . hmmm . . . I wondered how that one was working out.

Visitor's Report

The following week I stepped in the 3rd-grade language arts classroom that Sterkin teaches with her colleague Pamela Schnupp. Looking around, the first thing I noticed was what I didn't notice. There was an absence of loud noises and rolling eyes; there wasn't even a paper wad taking flight.

What I did hear were bountiful pleases and thank yous coming from the mouths of students dressed neatly in black and white, with combed hair and a stillness unusual for kids their age. Throughout the lesson – the may I's, raised hands and, "Yes, Miss Sterkin," just kept coming.

The way many of these kids had been able to shed their troubles, enter Sterkin's and Schnupp's class and put on the demeanor and impeccable manners belonging in a private academy, caused me to contemplate what an amazing resiliency they had to possess. And at their helm was a doe-eyed teacher whose gentleness turned out to be made of some pretty tough stuff.

"In her classroom, when they want to share something, they actually ask each other for permission – 'Can I share?' and, 'Yes, you may,'" said Assistant Principal Denise Dunn, who brings other teachers into Sterkin's class to see how she does it.

"When I talk to my students, even when I'm giving a lesson, I'm really cognizant of making sure I use manners," Sterkin said, explaining that she takes care not to raise her voice or talk rudely. She even strives to pass papers out respectfully instead of merely tossing them.

Good for Kids

Dunn advocates Sterkin's methods as "really good for the kids, because sometimes all they hear at home is the shout, shout, shout – and the words that we just don't want to have repeated anywhere near them."

Sterkin had come a long way in the nine years since that first tear-ridden semester. "I'm really happy I went with education because I can't imagine doing anything else," she said.

In college, it had been a toss-up between graphic design and teaching. But in the end she decided, "I wanted to help the children and make a greater impact on their education rather than kind of moving graphics around to get people to buy things."

But she hasn't entirely forsaken her love of art. Her bulletin boards teem with colorful papers

and hand-crafted cutouts, which she confessed take her hours of after-school time to create. "In this neighborhood, I feel like the students really appreciate the extra effort a little more," Sterkin said.

Unlike typical kids, some of hers don't want to go home when the school day ends. "And they don't say specifically, 'I don't want to go home because there's drugs and violence' but they kind of hang around the classroom," Sterkin said. "I think it's safe and it's a comfortable routine for them.

"And I think out there, they don't know what to expect all the time."

Sterkin wanted to show them that "they don't have to just sit there and take it." So in 2009 she created an after-school program called Helping Hands that encourages kids to use their talents to make a difference.

Helping Hands

Students meet once-a-week for activities with a helping theme, like pitching in to clean up the environment, writing stories about helping that they read to people in their community at a sharing

party and planting a school garden of vegetables and herbs that they give to physical education teacher Stephanie Kohout for her healthy cooking class.

This year, 4th grade teacher Danielle Todd joined Sterkin in Helping Hands. Armed with plans to buy new Flip video cameras, they are arranging to take their 10 students on a tour of the American Visionary Art Museum's "Smile" exhibit. Afterward students will try to recreate their favorite "Smile" piece using materials they recycle.

On top of the cameras, the class will get new MacBook laptops to help them create public service announcements for the school. Microsoft will help pay for the equipment through a \$10,000 donation they pledged to Sterkin after featuring her as a Make Education Great all-star.

Besides its projects, perhaps one of Helping Hands' greatest accomplishments is optimism. Sterkin said a lot of students have told her, "There's nothing to do or no way for me to help other people."

Now the kids in Helping Hands have a new mantra: "You feel like a hero because you're helping everybody and you're making your community a better

place to live for everybody and yourself," said 5th grader Olamide Gbenu talking in Microsoft's video about Sterkin's program.

"I'm hoping that this will allow them to go into the world and be

respectful and not be so influenced by their immediate environment and the violence going on," Sterkin said, emanating an optimism that manners of steel will win out over speeding bullets in the end.

Sir Walter Raleigh

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Greenbelt



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		Hatfield Sliced Bacon Assorted 1 lb.	<div>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</div>
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		Fresh Lean Beef Bone In Rib Roast	\$5.99 lb.

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		Shurfine Spaghetti Sauce Asst. 26 oz.	\$1.00
		Heinz Homestyle Gravy Assorted 12 oz. jar	3/\$4.00
		Bumble Bee Solid White Tuna 5 oz.	\$1.00
		Nestle Chocolate Morsels Assorted 10-12 oz.	\$1.88
		Betty Crocker Super Moist Cake Mix Assorted 18-19 oz.	\$1.00
		Thomas English Muffins Assorted 6 pk.	<div>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</div>

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Closed Sunday

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to “Weekly Report” or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

December 5, 6:30 p.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace, a person was approached by two women, who displayed a knife and demanded the person’s property. The suspects are described as a black female 18 years old with black hair and brown eyes, wearing a black jacket, white shirt and ripped jeans; and a black female with black hair and brown eyes, wearing a tan jacket and red blouse.

Drug Arrests

December 3, 9:10 a.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a resident youth was petitioned for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute on school grounds. The youth was released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

December 8, 10:25 a.m., 10 Court Southway, a resident man was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on citation pending trial.

Trespassing

November 26, 4 p.m., Beltway Plaza, a nonresident man was arrested, charged with trespassing on private property and released on citation pending trial.

December 5, 3:52 a.m., 7800 block Walker Drive, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespassing on private property, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. He was released to the Department of Correction for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

December 6, 8:45 p.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a resident youth was petitioned for trespassing on school grounds. The youth was released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

Disorderly Conduct

December 4, 2:08 a.m., Beltway Plaza, a nonresident woman was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct. She was released on citation pending trial.

December 5, 12:27 a.m., 7800 block Walker Drive, A nonresident man was arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and released on citation pending trial.

Unattended Children

December 8, 4:31 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road, a resident woman was arrested and charged with leaving unattended children in a dwelling. She was released on citation pending trial.

False Statement

December 4, 5:15 p.m., 7200 block Hanover Drive, a resident youth was petitioned for false statement to a police officer and driving without a license. The youth was released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

Burglaries

December 3, 1:16 p.m., Lakeside Drive, a TV, laptop, camera, iPod, telescope and currency were reported taken.

December 3, 1:54 p.m., 7200 block Morrison Drive, a TV, two

Police Warn, Offer Tips on Burglaries

Due to an increase in residential burglaries throughout the city the Greenbelt Police Department is urging residents to take steps to protect their homes.

Patrol efforts have been stepped up citywide but residents are being reminded to lock their doors and windows and to keep their curtains and blinds drawn when not at home. In addition, residents with alarms should remember to arm their systems when they leave. As the holidays near, do not leave empty boxes from expensive items out for trash pick-up. They should be broken down and placed in a bag to avoid indicating to a would-be burglar what valuables are in the home.

Report suspicious activity to the Greenbelt Police as soon as possible at 301-474-7200 (non-emergency) or 301-474-5454 (emergency). Remember that prevention is key to stopping crime.

For more ways to protect the home call MPO Kelly Lawson at 240-542-2116 to set up a free home security survey.

laptops, jewelry and a camera were among the items reported taken.

December 6, 4:36 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, an attempted burglary was reported.

December 9, 2:46 a.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane, nothing was reported taken.

Vehicle Crimes

Three vehicles were reported stolen: a white 2002 Ford Econoline Van with Md. tags from the 6200 block Springhill Court, a black 2001 Toyota Camry with Md. tags from the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace and a red 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer with Md. tags from the 9100 block Springhill Lane.

A red 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer with MD tags, stolen from the 9100 block Springhill Lane, was recovered in the 5900 block of Cherrywood Lane. No arrests were made.

Thefts from vehicles were reported in the following areas: 7200 Hanover Drive (GPS); 7800 block Walker Drive (GPS); Beltway Plaza (cellphone, clothing); 6100 block Breezewood Court (car stereo); 7600 block Greenbelt Road (purse, credit cards, currency, IDs); 6200 block Breezewood Drive (two incidents –2 GPS’, iPod); 6000 block Springhill Drive (GPS); 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive (XM radio); and 6100 block Breezewood Court (attempted theft).

Vandalism was reported at 6200 block Breezewood Drive (broken window), 6400 block Capitol Drive (damaged lock), Ridge Road (scratched) and 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive (broken window).

Greenbelt Middle – Off to a Good Start

It has been four months since Sharon Porter took the helm at Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) and by all accounts there have been dramatic changes at the school. Communication has been improved, parent involvement has increased and staff, parents and students have good things to say about their experiences there.

According to 8th grade parent Julie Tibbs, “There are a lot of positive changes this year, most importantly with communication between administrative staff and parents.” In an effort to keep parents and community members informed of what is going on at the school, Porter sends out a weekly update by email, posts this update on the school website and also sends out a monthly newsletter.

Parent/community feedback is encouraged with a comment section both on the website and on cards in the Main Office.

Porter reports “I have made quality customer service a top priority for the school, starting with the Main Office. We are also in the process of getting security cameras in the school. Cameras have never been placed in GMS before.”

Parent involvement has been encouraged.

The PTA, new this year, meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., and meetings so far this year have included a performance by the school’s wind ensemble and a board games night. The December meeting, on Tuesday, December 14 featured a poetry slam.

PTA president Amy Hansen says she is “thrilled that the staff comes out to PTA and is so committed to creating a strong learning environment.” She is very happy to see her own son Scott challenged by the Algebra 1 and other Honors classes that he is taking in 7th grade and by the creative projects assigned by the teachers. Bret Goldstein, father of Sam, also in 7th grade, agrees: “I love that my son is excited about going to middle school with his friends and neighbors and with teachers that promote his creativity.”

Porter reports that the staff has been active in pursuing grants for the school. They received a \$1,000 grant from Wells Fargo that will be used for student academic enrichment and have also applied for several grants from the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education.

Many after-school activities are offered to students, including an array of sports, dance, jazz and pep bands, art, history, science and math clubs.

Porter has introduced a School Pledge, to encourage students to reach for success daily: “Good, better, best, never let it rest; until your good becomes your better and your better becomes your BEST!” She sums up the year so far with: “Things are going well at GMS.”

– Anne Gardner

A Review

Combined Choir Makes Christmas with Concert

by James Giese

The Greenbelt Combined Choir once again gave Greenbelters an early Christmas present. Their gift was a wonderful holiday concert at Greenbelt Community Church on Sunday, December 12. Under the direction of Jean Cook, a Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen, and composed mostly of members of various area church choirs, the Combined Choir has been performing before the Christmas holiday for more years than I care to remember. Greenbelt enjoys several city holiday traditions; the choir is one of the best.

This year’s concert was marred unfortunately by ill health and minor accidents. Both the choir’s size and the length of its program were accordingly reduced. Cook herself had been in bed much of the previous week suffering from sciatica. Nevertheless, she vigorously led the group.

The evening’s program was an interesting variety of popular carols, serious choral works and humorous tunes, such as Sally Albrecht’s “Born to Shop,” sung

by Carol Price, Andrea Ross and Ginny Wells, and “The Twelve Days After Christmas” by Frederick Silver.

The Greenbelt Community Church Children’s Choir, led by Susan Breon, the evening’s accompanist, performed two musical pieces for the audience’s enjoyment. There was also a featured performance of “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” (the rock version) on guitar by upcoming teen heart throb and rock star Jan Knudson.

In between segments the audience enjoyed belting out traditional Christmas carols in the candlelit church sanctuary, accompanied by church organist Wei-Der Huang.

Making the evening more memorable was a traditional pre-concert spaghetti supper in the church social hall prepared by master chef Stan Edwards and an after-concert coffee and cookie social hour, with home baked cookies provided by choir members.

Where else is there a choir that treats you so well both in recital and gastronomically?

Youth Animation Project For 75th Anniversary Here

by Barbara Simon

Young people between the ages of 11 and 14 who live in Greenbelt and like art have a great project coming up in the new year. The Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts/Greenbelt Access Television (GAVA/GATE) Animation Program will create a special animated feature to help celebrate Greenbelt’s 75th anniversary in 2012. Youth can be part of this exciting project by joining the team of animation students, who will work collaboratively using computer animation and (for the first time for the GAVA/GATE program) construct a three-dimensional sculptural background for this animated special.

The 75th Anniversary Animation Project is free for all participants and is a wonderful chance for Greenbelt youth to learn animation. There will be opportunities to work in all aspects of animation – sound, music etc. The GAVA/GATE Animation Program, now in its 12th year, has created collaborative animation specials before but this one will be the most ambitious. (The last collaborative project, “Green Concrete,” sponsored by Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), went on to be screened at the 13th annual

DC Environmental Film Festival in 2005.)

The project begins in January with Saturday afternoon workshops to build the background, create characters and begin animating them. The workshops will be held at the Greenbelt Community Center starting January 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. Tom Baker, a Community Center studio artist and George Kochell, GAVA/GATE animation instructor, will lead the project together. The program will continue through the spring into summer.

The finished animation feature will be a highlight of Greenbelt’s year-long celebration in 2012. It will be screened at Beltway Plaza movie theaters and be part of the 2012 Utopia Film Festival.

On December 4 this project was awarded the 2010 Jim Cassels Award by the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket at its annual meeting.

For information about how young people may join in creating the 75th Greenbelt Anniversary animation special email Project Coordinator Barbara Simon at simongava@yahoo.com.

Barbara Simon is the president of GAVA.

Brrr. . . February Weather in December

Due to the unseasonably early cold weather the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) has issued an advisory about the risks of hypothermia, which was a factor in 42 Maryland deaths last year and 54 in the winter of 2008-2009.

Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable during extended cold weather, with special risks from carbon monoxide and injuries from heat sources.

Symptoms of hypothermia (where body temperature falls below 95 degrees F) are uncontrollable shivering; cold, pale skin; numbness; poor circula-

tion; disorientation; slurred speech; and bluish or puffy skin. DHMH warns not to massage or rub frostbitten skin, which may cause further damage.

More tips can be found at <http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov> under Hot Topics, then Hypothermia & Frostbite.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.

KOHOUT continued from page 1

Each team took ends of the gym and tried to throw theirs in baskets, dubbed garbage cans, on the other side of the court. Kohout explained the winning team would be the one which landed a greater number of “dust balls” in the garbage than their opponents.

“I try to integrate everything that I can,” Kohout said. She also talked about the importance of keeping lessons interesting as a means of maintaining order. With classes of 20 to 25 students, she said she handles chaos by not letting it occur in the first place.

I wondered how well Kohout would be able to avoid disorder in a gym full of excited children running around hurling fuzzy objects. While watching the room-cleaning game, I searched for a student who displayed high energy to be my test case, someone who had to work to sit still and talked with a noisy voice. I found him easily. Would he follow her instructions or would he go into overdrive?

When Kohout signaled “Start,” he leapt up and quickly covered the ground to his opponents’ side – grabbing “dust balls” with hands like fly tape on insects. I waited to see whether they’d be chuckled at his opponents’ heads. But he aimed for the garbage cans.

Then he saw a ball he really wanted, but outside the line Ms. Kohout had designated. He rushed to the boundary, tiptoed on it, hands shaking with anticipation. While children scurried around him, he looked on longingly – but in the end he did not waver from Ms. Kohout’s instructions.

No Chaos

I gave up on him and looked around for someone else. Animation and laughter filled the gym as eager children ran, caught and threw. But chaos, no. Kohout had told me some of her students who had problems in the classroom “thrive in PE because we set goals for them.”

In a Human Kinetics test the school administers, students have to run 15 times the length of the gym in short order to rank in the “healthy fitness zone.” Not all make it – but a few exceptional kids not only make the 15 – they pass it, running as much as 40 laps. “Those are the ones the teachers warn me about and I’m like, ‘Hey, they do great here,’” Kohout said.

“She is completely and utterly involved in their lives and showing them what they can do to be healthy,” said Amy Wiley, physical education supervisor for the Prince George’s County School system. Recognizing Kohout’s talent, Wiley nominated her for the 2010 Simon McNeely Award, given to educators who demonstrate integrity, creative leadership and dedication to improving the health and well-being of youth.

Kohout won, adding the award to her mounting accomplishments. In 2009 she had obtained a \$10,000 team nutrition grant through the Maryland Department of Education.

By initiating extra programs at Springhill Lake and going beyond her required duties, Kohout has gained the attention of her school

and the state. But it was not the spotlight that ignited her zeal: it was the children.

Workout Club

Some of her students had been gaining 10 and 20 pounds a year and several had become dangerously obese. So in 2008, Kohout kicked off a before-school workout club that she still teaches today, although time for the program has switched to after-school.

Assistant Principal Denise Dunn appreciates Kohout’s penchant for creating healthy programs on her own initiative. “She cares a lot about these students and she exhibits that in going the extra mile every single day,” Dunn said.

There have been roadblocks in Kohout’s path. She is not a fan of Prince George’s County school lunches. “We can’t really do much about changing the foods in our school. Christi Dorsey is our new county nutritionist and she’s taking some good steps in that direction,” Kohout said. “But she can’t do it fast enough because of paperwork and stuff.”

Instead of giving up, Kohout decided she would teach her students how to eat healthy at home. So she put her grant money toward after-school healthy cooking classes. Kids swarmed to sign up.

“I’ve never seen so many kids interested in one single activity,” Kohout said. Although she had been developing the class before the show came out, she shared credit with England’s own health food icon. “Part of the popularity of it is because of Jamie Oliver’s whole striving to get healthy foods in our schools.”

Popular Program

The original plan was to have

six teachers teaching six students. Kohout and her team had estimated that around 36 students would sign up. When nearly 150 kids expressed interest, they could not handle that volume. So Kohout added more teachers and increased class size until they were able to accommodate 96 students.

The zeal Kohout shows for her students’ health stems from her own childhood. “When I was a kid, I was overweight,” she said, sharing how that has given her a driving passion to keep her students from going in that direction.

Cut from soccer during her senior year in high school, Kohout hit a crossroads. “I changed my life,” she said, and “used it as motivation in college, lost the weight, got better training – ended up playing semi-pro after college.”

While playing semi-pro on Germany’s TSG Rohrbach and SG Hemsbach teams and photographing idyllic clear skies and a mountain castle near her home, Kohout was inspired with the idea for “Ready, Set, Go!” a book she published in 2007 after returning to the United States.

It’s a 16-page poem she wrote

and illustrated with her own photographs and some donated by soccer teammates:

“Too often I wonder what would be next;

The future is hidden with riddles and tests.”

When reading Kohout’s book, I wondered aloud whether she was a philosopher. “It’s the Greek background,” she said and shrugged.

Whether teaching or writing poems, Kohout believes in being zealous. “If you don’t have passion for the job, you’re really not going to get it done,” she explained.

Her passion for her work boomeranged back in the voices of children who greeted her in high decibels when I walked with her on the school grounds.

At first I thought an ice cream truck had pulled up or maybe Justin Bieber. But looking around, I saw only children and Kohout.

“Ms. Kohout,” “Ms. Kohout,” “Ms. Kohout,” reverberated through the air as boys and girls bounced toward her. She returned their greetings, calling each by name. No, Bieber wasn’t there, I realized. But to Springhill Lake, Kohout was their superstar.



Christmas Eve Service

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Local NAMI Workshop Meets

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New Carrollton Area support group will meet at the Hanco Building at Beckett Field, 8511 Legation Road in New Carrollton on Monday, December 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. This group prepares mailings and does other volunteer tasks while sharing their mental health experiences and each other's challenges and solutions. For more information call Dominique Thomas at 301-385-1699 or email nami.dom@domthom.com.

Adult Dance Recital At Old Parish House

On Saturday, December 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Greenbelt's New Chicago Dance Company will hold its adult class recital, free and open to the public, at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road in College Park. Learn more at www.newchicagoancestudio.com.

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BUS CHANGES continued from page 1

hearing on the proposed route changes listing 19 conditions the city was seeking from both DPW&T and WMATA in order for the city to give unconditional support for the proposed restructuring.

The most significant conditions requested by the city involved improved service on Greenbelt Road between the Greenbelt Metro station and the Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA); a more focused public education and outreach effort to assure success of the restructuring; maintaining the existing span of service on all new routes; and considering the restructured routes on a trial basis for at least 18 months.

City and residents' efforts during the process helped to convince DPW&T to approach restructuring of the new routes to create "circulator" routes in and among Greenbelt neighborhoods. The proposed changes somewhat reflect that thinking.

To date the city has not received responses from DPW&T or WMATA concerning the listed conditions. Carl Schuettler, Chief Planning Section Division of Transit at DPW&T indicated that DPW&T would be evaluating the routes (15X) during the first 3-6 months and may consider additional stops, possibly at the Greenway Shopping Center and the Forbes Blvd. Commercial Office Area. City planning staff, also, are looking on the new restructured routes as a trial. They hope to evaluate the performance of the restructured service and work cooperatively with both agencies on any mid-course improvements, efforts to increase ridership and, ultimately, to make a case for expanding service in Greenbelt on Saturdays and Sundays and for later hours for weekday service.

TRU-G Response

TRU-G also did not embrace the changes. As an organization, it took no position on the proposed restructuring. TRU-G determined that the proposal took service away from certain areas and added service to others. Their efforts helped retain services to the Hillside Road area that could have been lost according to some earlier plans.

Both TRU-G and the city helped the fostering of greater co-operation between bus planners of DPW&T and WMATA. Before the restructuring, many residents and Greenbelt officials bemoaned the reality that TheBus was not doing a very good job. Riders often complained that the service was unreliable.

On December 20 the restructured routes promise better coordination between WMATA Metro routes and TheBus routes. If the restructuring works, this should help build ridership.

TRU-G continues to focus on WMATA and DPW&T's efforts to make a smooth transition to the restructured routes and to provide useful information on the changes to Greenbelt's current transit riders and new riders. Recent TRU-G meetings emphasized outreach efforts on the December 20 changes. Like the city, TRU-G will evaluate the restructuring, helping to assure its success.

Residents of upper Ridge Road, Lastner Lane, Ivy Lane in Boxwood and Greenhill Road will begin seeing WMATA Metro buses and TheBus smaller buses in their neighborhoods later this month, for many, closer to their

door. For seniors 60 years and older and the disabled, TheBus is free.

WMATA Changes

R12: The existing R12 route will be split into two new routes. A new R12 will operate between the Greenbelt and Deanwood Stations with an intermediate stop at the College Park Station. It will continue to serve Franklin Park and Beltway Plaza and Greenbelt Road and then head south.

It will operate Monday through Saturday. Span of operations will be from 4:49 a.m. to 10:02 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 10:43 p.m. on Saturday. A new G12 will replace the segment of the existing R12 that headed to the New Carrollton Station.

C2: The existing C2 will be truncated, no longer serving Greenbelt Center. The new routing has the C2 originating at Greenbelt Metro, turning right at Greenbelt Road and Cherrywood Drive to Route 1 and then heading south to College Park, University of Md., Langley Park, University Boulevard and the Wheaton Metro Station. It will operate Monday through Saturday. Span of operations 5:48 a.m. to 10:27 p.m. weekdays and 7:18 a.m. to 10:23 on Saturday.

G14/G16: these new routes replace the existing T16/T17 routes. They will operate between the Greenbelt Metro Station and the New Carrollton Station. The route out of the station will take Cherrywood Lane to Greenbelt Road, turn left on Lakecrest Drive to Westway, right on Ridge Road to Gardenway and to Roosevelt Center.

The G14/16 and the new G12 (westbound) will be scheduled to wait five minutes at Roosevelt Center for connections with each other, allowing riders on one route to transfer to either of the other routes.

Leaving Roosevelt Center via Southway, the G14/G16 proceeds east on Greenbelt Road to Mission Drive, Goodluck Road, Cipriano Road, Md. Rt. 450 and then to the New Carrollton Metro Station. G14/G16 will operate Monday through Saturday. Span of operations will be 5:03 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. weekdays and 6:40 a.m. to 10:20 p.m. on Saturday.

G12: This route replaces the R12 segment that operated between the New Carrollton Metro Station and the Greenbelt Metro Station. The new route from the Greenbelt Station is from Greenbelt Metro Drive, left on Cherrywood Lane to Ivy Lane to Kenilworth.

After turning left on Crescent Road, it takes another left on Ridge Road at the Police Station to Ivy Lane (Boxwood) and another left to Lastner Lane to Ridge Road. The new G12 follows Ridge Road to Gardenway Road to Roosevelt Center.

Leaving Roosevelt Center via Southway to Ridge Road, Westway and on to Lakecrest Drive, it turns left onto Greenbelt Road and circulates through Greenbelt East via Hanover Parkway, Mandan Road, Ora Glen Drive back to Hanover Parkway and left again to Doctors Community Hospital, then to Princess Garden Parkway, Md. Rt. 450 and the New Carrollton Metro Station. G12 will operate Monday through Saturday. Span of operations will be 5:07 a.m. to 10:29 p.m. weekdays and 6:32 a.m. to 10:22 p.m. on Saturday.



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

TheBus Changes

TheBus Route 11: New Route 11 will operate from the Greenbelt Metro Station, Greenbelt Metro Drive, Cherrywood Lane, Kenilworth Avenue, Crescent Road, left on Greenhill Road to Hillside. Then it follows Hillside Road to Crescent, turns left on Southway and proceeds to Greenbelt Road, right on Hanover Parkway to Greenbrook Drive, Ora Glen Drive, Mandan Road, then crosses Greenbelt Road at Mandan and proceeds to Hanover Parkway and reverses the route back to Greenbelt Metro Station. Route 11 will operate Monday through Friday. Span of operations will be 6 a.m. to 8:20 p.m.

Guide to New Bus Route Information

Changed Metrobus routes C2, G12/G13/G14/G16, R11/R12
www.wmata.com/bus/timetables
(until December 18, click on "upcoming timetables")
or call 202-637-7000

As of December 14 the Greenbelt bus information produced by the "Metro Trip Planner" web form had errors and Metro was seeking to correct it.

Changed TheBus routes 11, 15X, and 16

www.co.pg.md.us

Click on "Select a Service" and choose "Transit Services"
or call 301-324-BUSS (2877)

www.greenbeltdmd.gov

has links to brochures and timetables

trugreenbelt@gmail.com

++Transit Riders United of Greenbelt will answer questions emailed to them.

TheBus Route 15 Express (15X): As proposed, this route functions as an express connection from the Greenbelt Metro Station and the New Carrollton Metro Station back and forth to the Goddard Visitors Center. That this route will have limited stops on Greenbelt Road is a concern of the City and transit riders. Route 15X will operate Monday through Friday. Span of operations will be 6 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Peak Morning and 3:30 p.m. to 7:10 p.m. Peak Evening.

The Bus Route 16: Route 16 will operate from the Greenbelt Metro Station to Cherrywood Drive, Springhill Drive, Springhill Lane, Breezewood Drive, left on Cherrywood Lane to 60th Avenue, 57th Avenue, Berwyn Road, 58th Avenue, Pontiac St. to Kenilworth Avenue left to Greenbelt Road, right to Hanover Parkway, Good Luck Road and Doctors Community Hospital. Then the route goes back to Good Luck Road, Lamont Drive, Md. Rt. 450, terminating at the New Car-

rollton Metro Station.

Route 16 will operate Monday through Friday. Span of operations will be 5:30 a.m. to 8:14 p.m. During peak hours the frequency of service is proposed at 20 minutes, 30 minutes at off-peak.

Current Routes

Unchanged will be Route 81 and the B30 express bus. Route 81 runs from Greenbelt Metro down Cherrywood Lane, turns right on Greenbelt Road, then heads through College Park and south to Rhode Island Station in D.C. It's a Sunday-only route, as most of the other northern county routes don't run on Sundays.

Since it's Sunday-only and runs only in farthest Greenbelt West, many Greenbelt riders don't know about it. (The Greenbelt Connection runs on Sundays but is not a "route." University of Maryland shuttles in Greenbelt are not really "public" since only UM students and staff can ride.)

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